

THAT WAR OVER COAL

Mr. Moore Puts the Case From the Union Pacific Side.

HOW THE TROUBLE CAME UP

The Railroad People Say That All Can Get Along Pleasantly if Outside Operators Keep Up Prices.

BUTTE, March 21.—J. M. Moore, agent of the Union Pacific coal department, returned from Omaha this morning and was interviewed by a STANDARD reporter this afternoon concerning the changes recently made in the price of coal and freight rates between Rock Springs and Montana common points.

To the question whether it was true, as has been alleged, that the changes referred to had been made in order to freeze out the private coal companies operating at Rock Springs, Mr. Moore made a most emphatic denial and then made the following statement of the Union Pacific's side of the case:

He said that, years ago, it was the practice of the railroad company to work against the other coal companies at Rock Springs and, by charging exorbitant rates of freight, to make it impossible for their competitors to sell their coal. In this manner the railroad had a complete monopoly of the coal business. Subsequently a change in the management of the company was made, by which the late T. J. Potter was appointed general manager. About the first thing he did was to issue an order that the coal companies should receive the benefit of reasonable freight rates, so as to place them in a position by which they would be able to sell the output of their mines at a fair profit.

Mr. Potter claimed that by enabling the other mines to sell their coal the freight traffic of the railroad would be greatly increased, and as the business just at that time was not very brisk, the increase of revenue that would follow would show the wisdom of the order. Mr. Potter went even farther. He gave orders that the competing companies should be granted the same rights that the railroad company enjoyed in the matter of transportation facilities, and whenever a scarcity of cars existed under this order, what cars could be spared to haul coal were distributed equally between all the mines and all shared alike. Mr. Potter held that the coal mines owned by the railroad company were only a secondary consideration, and he argued that, if the company could not operate them on a basis to permit of fair competition with the mines, it had better go out of the coal business altogether and allow some one else to work the mines.

While the receipts from the coal department were quite acceptable, Mr. Potter could see no reason why the revenue of the freight department could not be increased by making a rate to other companies, so that they could sell their coal. The result of this was that all the paying mines at Rock Springs were operated, and while the Union Pacific still sold all the coal it could produce, the other companies sold their product, and the railroad received a double revenue, one from the sale of its coal and the other in the way of freight receipts from its competitors.

A fixed schedule of prices was arranged, and all the companies bound themselves not to sell their product at a less rate per ton than the prices agreed upon in the schedule. In this manner business was continued for some time, and all parties expressed themselves as satisfied. No hitch occurred until last fall, when the Union Pacific learned that some of its competitors were selling coal at a price per ton less than the schedule rates. The outside companies did not deny that a cut had been made, but each accused the other of being the one guilty of the offense.

After vainly trying to bring about an adjustment of the difficulty, and the outside companies still persisting in cutting rates, Mr. Magaeth, general manager of the Union Pacific coal department, secured an order from the traffic department of the railroad advancing the rate on coal to all points east of the divide, thus shutting out the competing companies from the territory in which they derived most of their revenue. It required only a short time to bring the outside companies to terms, and after a little of this treatment they agreed to abide by the schedule. The order advancing freight rates was recalled and the old rates became operative once more.

The outside companies, so far as is known, have adhered faithfully to their promise and the eastern coal market remains undisturbed. Recently, however, the outside companies, in order to increase their sales in Montana, sold coal at less than fixed rates to some of the smelting works in this city, and Mr. Magaeth decided to try the old plan in this direction. The rate fixed for coal at the production works in this city was \$3.50, delivered. This rate, while conceded by all parties interested to be fair and reasonable, permitted all companies to sell their coal at a good profit. To stop rate cutting Mr. Magaeth reduced the price of coal at the mines from \$1.75 per ton to \$1.25, and the freight rate was advanced from \$4.75 per ton, Rock Springs to Butte, to \$5.25, thus leaving the cost of coal to smelters as it was before the change went into effect last fall.

According to Mr. Moore's statement the outside companies not only cut the Butte, but also were guilty of cutting at all points on the main line west of Rock Springs, and on the Utah & Northern as well. The only reason, Mr. Moore said, why the change was made was because the Union Pacific found itself forced to do something to protect its own interests, and not, as has been alleged, to force the smelting and mining companies to buy its coal exclusively. While he admitted that \$1.25 was a small price to charge for ton of coal, Mr. Moore thought the outside companies could still remain in the market, but at a proportionate reduction in their profits. The managers of several of the production works, he said, had assured him that it made no difference to them from whom they bought their coal, so long as the price remained the same. There might be some, he thought, who did not like the new arrangement, but they were in the minority and could still buy their coal from the outside companies if they so desired, as the latter would probably continue to ship coal here the same as before.

"The few who complain and say we are trying to kill off competition," Mr. Moore said, "had no fault to find last summer when our company made arrangements by which we were willing to do all for boiler purposes, at \$3.50 per ton and gave them the cheapest fuel they ever had. The price charged for the slack merely covers the freight, and we get nothing for the fuel itself. This may be only a trifle, but it shows that we are willing to do all we can for the smelting companies, and they should at least give us credit for our good intentions and manifest disposition to treat them fairly and liberally."

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WALKER'S OFFENSIVE WORDS.

They Are Ordered Expunged from the Records of the House.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—It is likely a radical reform in the matter of the privilege afforded members in extending their speeches in the record, will result from the investigation into the transgressions of Mr. Walker of Massachusetts. Ever since the session opened, there has been warm political rivalry between the republican and democratic representatives from the Bay state, and Walker has had several lively bouts with Hoar and Williams, whom he takes pleasure in designating alternately as "mugwumps" and "kindergarten democrats."

His interjection into the printed report of his speech of some headlines about "Hot Shot for Mugwumps," etc., caused Mr. Williams to rise to a question of personal privilege last week, and the committee on printing to-day submitted a report on the matter, accompanied by a resolution declaring that the house expresses its disapproval of the unparliamentary language used by Walker in that portion of his speech printed, although not delivered on the floor, and that the whole of the undelivered portion of the speech be expunged from the record. The report will be considered to-morrow.

The house went into a committee of the whole on the army appropriation bill. A long discussion took place during its consideration over a point of order raised by Crain of Texas against the proviso in the bill, that hereafter no money appropriated for transportation be used in payment of transportation over non-railroad lines owned, controlled or operated by the Union Pacific company, or by the Southern Pacific, over the lines embraced in its Pacific system. The chair sustained the point on the ground that the proviso made a permanent law. It was then amended to be made applicable only to the present bill. This was agreed to, and the committee having risen, the bill passed. The house went into a committee of the whole on the free wool bill. Goodnight of Kentucky assailed the protective system in a speech of some length, and Snodgrass of Tennessee consumed some time in opposing the bill donating \$5,000,000 to the world's fair. The committee then arose and the house adjourned.

STANDARD OIL AFFAIRS.

Another Meeting of Stockholders Held in New York.

NEW YORK, March 21.—At a meeting of the stockholders of the Standard Oil trust it was decided to terminate the trust; that all property held by the trust except the stock of the corporation be sold by the trustees at private sale.

Stocks were intensely dull after 11 and stagnant as to prices. John D. Rockefeller, Henry M. Flagler, William Rockefeller, John D. Archbold, Benjamin Brewster, Henry H. Rogers, Wesley H. Tilford and O. B. Jennings were appointed trustees to wind up the trust's affairs. The money received from the sale of its effects will be distributed pro rata among the holders of trust certificates. All stocks of corporations held by the trust are to be distributed pro rata to trust certificate holders upon surrender of certificates for cancellation.

Resolutions also to ratify all acts of the trustees during the existence of the trust and to provide that the power to vote upon any stock now standing in the name of the trustees shall cease after four months, was adopted.

IT WAS A BAD DEAL.

Judges in Jail for Failure to Comply With Orders of a Higher Court.

KANSAS CITY, March 21.—Late this afternoon Judge Phillips of the United States circuit court, sentenced Judges Ray, Blaine and George of Cass county to jail until they make some arrangement for the payment of the bonds voted for that county 20 years ago in aid of the 'Tobacco and Neosho railroad. He also imposed a fine of \$500 on each of the three. The sentences of the St. Clair county judges have been postponed until Monday. In 1870 the two counties voted \$750,000 and \$1,000,000 respectively, to aid in the construction of the road. It was never built, but the bonds fell into the hands of innocent purchasers, who have obtained judgment repeatedly, but never have been able to collect. Judge Phillips ordered the county judges a year ago to issue a special tax levy for the indebtedness, but the judges have repeatedly declined and Judge Phillips finally determined to summon and commit them for contempt.

THE JAG KILLERS.

Butte to Have the State Institute for the Keeley Cure.

BUTTE, March 21.—Mr. Iseman, who owns the right for Montana for the Keeley cure, has about concluded to locate the state institute at Butte, and in company with several interested citizens was looking for a location, several large buildings being under consideration. A branch of the institute will be established in Helena or some other small town. The stock has been open for consideration only a few days, and about 500 of the 1,000 shares have already been taken. The institute will be open for the reception of chronic jags within a short time. Butte capitalists consider the stock a good investment. It is proposed to talk up the scheme that is being worked successfully in some other towns, that is, have the police magistrate give chronic drunks that come before him the choice of two sentences, a scholarship in the jag house or 30 days on the chain gang.

THE DEADLY TROLLEY.

It Got in Its Work on Mr. Passmore's Horse.

BUTTE, March 21.—While C. S. Passmore was driving along East Park street about 10 o'clock tonight the trolley wire of the Meaderville electric car line became detached and fell down on the horse, killing the animal instantly. Quite a crowd gathered around but no one cared to touch the horse until some of the company's employees came along and removed the carcass. The horse was valued at about \$100.

THEY WILL FIGHT.

The Sheriff Has Not Attempted to Evict the Hesperus Squatters.

BUTTE, March 21.—The sheriff did not attempt to evict the squatters from the Hesperus lode claim today, and it is probably well that no attempt was made or bloodshed would undoubtedly have followed, as word was sent to town today that the squatters had armed themselves and declared they would resist any attempt to run them out of their homes.

To Whom It May Concern.

Any one crediting H. R. Hoeller do so at their own risk, as I am not responsible for his debts.

The latest New York styles in hats at Wislonski's, No. 31 East Park street.

ALL FOR SPITE.

The Queer Story of an Unfinished House in St. Louis.

Several days ago the attention of The Man About Town was called by an acquaintance to an unfinished weather-beaten frame house on Florence avenue, in the western part of the city, with the remark: "There is a clear case of a man biting off his nose to spite his face." The house referred to gave promise, if finished, of being a very handsome and comfortable home, but it has never been finished above the first story. There are no fences or walks around the place. No steps lead up to the doors, the porches have never been completed, the upper story is only partly weather-boarded and is without windows, while the painter's brush has never been applied to any part of the building. Shingles, window casing and dressed lumber to finish the house are piled up in the yard, but like the structure itself, are slowly decaying under the influence of the weather.

"The owner of that place," said the gentleman, who was asked for information, "is a well-to-do carpenter who commenced its construction about three years ago, but for some reason was unable to finish it. The family moved into it, but the work of completion was put off from day to day, until the neighbors commenced to make remarks, which so angered the owner that he said he would see them all in hades before he would finish it. That was fully three years ago, and the house remained in that unfinished condition ever since, a monument to the man's folly and an eyesore to the neighborhood."—St. Louis Republic.

MILLS HOLDS THE FIELD.

It Is Said That Chilton Will Withdraw From the Race.

AUSTIN, TEXAS, March 21.—If indications count for anything, Roger Q. Mills will be elected senator from Texas to-morrow. It will not be surprising if Senator Chilton withdraws and leaves the field undisturbed to Mills. Governor Hogg appointed Chilton to succeed Reagan when the latter resigned to accept the chairmanship of the state railway commission.

Deeming's Bad Record.

ADELAIDE, Australia, March 21.—The police here have identified Deeming, alias Williams, as the author of a robbery committed here in 1888. At that time he was living in Adelaide under the alias of Ward. The day after the robbery Deeming, accompanied by his wife and two children, sailed for Helena, en route to Capetown.

Smith the Winner.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21.—Billy Smith, the Boston lightweight, defeated Billy Armstrong of San Francisco in 14 rounds at the Occidental club to-night.

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